

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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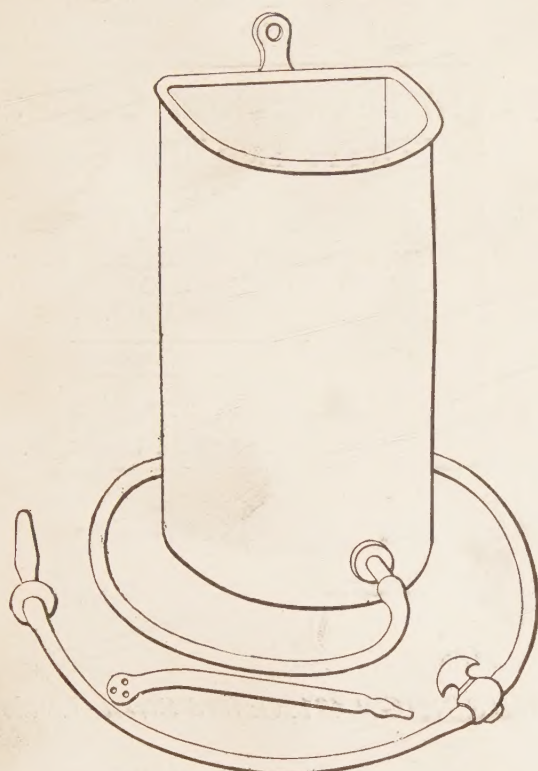
## THE NURSING RECORD

No. 1,508. VOL. 58. [Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.]

FEBRUARY 24TH, 1917

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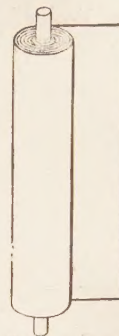
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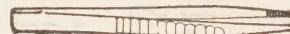
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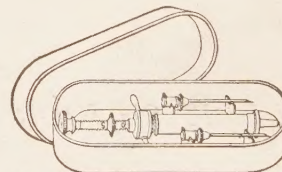
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EDITH LOUISA CAVELL

by

HENRIETTA J. HAWKINS

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Editorial Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.  
 N.B.—All communications in respect to Advertisements or business matters must be addressed to  
 The Manager, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.  
 Phone—1712 Gerrard.

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW  
VACANCIES, ETC.

**NEWARK HOSPITAL** (50 beds—30 Civilian and 20 Army).—WANTED, MATRON, 3 years' trained Nurse with experience in housekeeping and hospital management. Commencing salary £60, with Board, Laundry and Uniform. For form of application apply to the SECRETARY, 27, Kirk Gate, Newark. 99

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
EASTLEIGH AND BISHOPSTOKE.

The above Council invite applications for the following appointments at their Infectious Diseases Hospital at Northend, near Eastleigh:—

MATRON, to take charge of the Hospital. Salary £45 per annum, and an allowance of £3 per annum for Uniform.

STAFF NURSE. Applicants to state salary required.

Two PROBATIONERS. Salary £12 per annum each.

COOK GENERAL. Salary £22 per annum. LAUNDRY and WARD MAID. Salary £18 per annum.

Board, Residence, and Laundry will also be found in respect of each of the above appointments, which will be subject to a month's notice on either side.

Applications, endorsed "Hospital," stating age and experience, and accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, to be received by me not later than TUESDAY, the 27th February, instant.

Canvassing will be a disqualification. ]  
 By Order,

J. LAWRENCE,  
 Clerk to the Council.

Council Offices,  
 Eastleigh, Hants.  
 February, 1917. 104

## DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.

"HAWKMOOR" SANATORIUM, NEAR BOVEY TRACEY.

MATRON WANTED. Salary £70-£90 per annum and Uniform allowance.

ASSISTANT MATRON WANTED to take charge of the Housekeeping. Salary £50-£70 and Uniform allowance.

For further particulars and forms of application apply to THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER, 14, Bedford Circus, Exeter. 105

## LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to the Editor should be addressed to her at  
 20, UPPER WIMPOLE ST., LONDON, W.  
 Phone—513 Mayfair.

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES  
ETC.—continued.MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL FOR  
CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES  
OF THE CHEST.

NORTHWOOD, MIDDLESEX.  
 WANTED, SISTER, to take charge of women patients. Must be fully qualified, willing and competent to train Probationers. Remuneration £40 per annum, rising to £45, £5 War Bonus. Board, Residence, Uniform and Laundry provided. Apply, enclosing copies of recent testimonials and stating experience, to MATRON as above. 97

ABERDARE AND DISTRICT  
GENERAL HOSPITAL.

SISTER REQUIRED. Must be fully trained, certificated Nurse, competent to take charge of Theatre.

Salary £40, rising £2 10s. per annum to £50, and Indoor Uniform.

Also two STAFF NURSES. Must hold certificate of three years' training. Alternate night duty.

Salary £30 and Indoor Uniform.

Application forms may be had from the Hon. Sec., MR. A. W. HUMPHREYS, 50, Cwmaman Road, Godreman, Aberdare, upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Applications close March 1st, 1917. 106

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLACK-  
BURN, FEVER HOSPITAL.

WANTED, NIGHT SISTER. Salary £38-£44, with Uniform. General and Fever trained preferred.

Apply, with references and photograph if possible, to MATRON, Fever Hospital, Blackburn. 107

MANCHESTER SANATORIUM FOR  
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

WARD SISTER REQUIRED, fully trained and certificated.

Salary £38 and Uniform, rising by £2 annually to £44.

Application, with copies of testimonials, &c., to MATRON, Manchester Sanatorium, Baguley, Cheshire. 103

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HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES  
ETC.—continued.DEWSBURY UNION.  
NURSING SISTERS.

The Guardians REQUIRE three NURSING SISTERS at the Staincliffe Infirmary, in view of the reception of Wounded Soldiers.

Candidates to be trained and certificated, and willing to take Day and Night Duty alternately.

Salary £35 per annum, rising £1 annually to a maximum of £40, with Rations, Apartments, Washing and Uniform, and a War Bonus on salary of 2s. weekly.

Forms of application, to be obtained from me, must be returned to me not later than THURSDAY, the 1st March next.

Selected candidates will receive notice when and where to attend, and their reasonable travelling expenses will be paid.

By Order,

C. P. PICKERSGILL,  
 Clerk to the Guardians.

Union Offices,  
 Wellington Street, Dewsbury.  
 10th February, 1917. 109

AUXILIARY MILITARY HOSPITAL,  
WELLINGTON, SALOP.

SISTERS and STAFF NURSES REQUIRED. Must be fully trained.

Salaries:—Sisters, £50; Staff Nurses, £40 per annum, with allowance for Laundry and Uniform.

Apply to MILITARY HOSPITAL, Holyhead Road, Wellington, Salop. 110

MARTLEY UNION.  
ASSISTANT NURSES.

The Guardians require TWO ASSISTANT NURSES at the Workhouse Infirmary, Martley, near Worcester.

Salary £27 per annum, with Rations, Apartments, Washing, and Indoor Uniform.

\* Applications to be made on forms provided by me, and to be sent to me by the 24th FEBRUARY inst.

J. G. SHEILD,  
 Clerk.

14, Foregate Street, Worcester,  
 3rd February, 1917. 111

SHARDLOW UNION.  
ASSISTANT NURSE WANTED.

The Guardians of the Shardlow Union REQUIRE (immediately) an ASSISTANT NURSE at their Workhouse at Shardlow.

Applicants must be single or widows without encumbrance, must have had previous practical experience in nursing, and must be willing to take Night or Day Duty as required.

Salary £30, rising by annual increments of £1 to £32 and then to £32 10s. per



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A Branch of the Society is about to be opened in Manchester, where Examinations are already held, and Lectures given.

The Society is approved by the Medical Profession, and its certificate holders may not undertake cases without the permission of a registered practitioner.

The Certificate of the Society is a qualification accepted by the War Office for work amongst the wounded, and over 900 certificate-holders are at present working in Military and Red Cross Hospitals, Convalescent Camps, &c.

For further information apply to the Secretary—

157, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W. Telephone: MAYFAIR 4189.

**HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES  
ETC.—continued.**

annum, with Indoor Uniform, Furnished Apartments, Rations, and Washing (no beer or money in lieu). The emoluments for purposes of the Poor-Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, are valued at £35 per annum.

Applications, in candidates' own handwriting, on special forms to be obtained on forwarding stamped addressed envelope to the undersigned, should be sent so as to reach me not later than 12 noon on WEDNESDAY, February 28th, 1917.

Third-class train fare and reasonable expenses will be allowed to candidates selected to attend the Board meeting on MONDAY, March 5th, 1917, except that the expenses of the appointed candidate will be paid on her taking up her duties.

Particulars of the duties may be obtained on application to "THE MATRON," Shardlow Workhouse, near Derby.

By Order,

J. W. NEWBOLD,

Clerk to the Guardians.

Becket Street, Derby,  
February, 1917.

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**CITY OF WESTMINSTER UNION  
INFIRMARY, FULHAM ROAD, S.W.****PROBATIONER NURSES.**

The Guardians invite applications for appointments as PROBATIONER NURSES.

Candidates must be over 21 years and under 27 years of age, well educated, free from any physical infirmity, and should apply personally to the MATRON at the Infirmary, or write, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope, to her for forms of application.

Candidates if approved by the Committee will be taken on trial for two months, and if satisfactory, for three years' training.

Salary £12 during the first year, £18 the second year, and £20 per annum for the third and subsequent years of service. Board, Lodging, Washing and Indoor Uniform. 113

**BOROUGH OF LANCASTER.****HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL  
NURSE.**

Applications are invited immediately for the combined post of temporary HEALTH VISITOR and SCHOOL NURSE.

Salary commencing at £90 per annum, Uniform allowance of £5.

Candidates must not be less than 25 years of age, and preference will be given to those who (1) have certificates of full Hospital Training; or (2) hold recognised certificates for Health Visitors and School Nurses; or (3) are certified under the Midwives Act, 1902.

Forms of application can be obtained from the Medical Officer of Health, Town Hall, Lancaster.

T. CANN HUGHES,

Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Lancaster,  
February 6th, 1917.

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**HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES  
ETC.—continued.****URBAN DISTRICT OF SPEN-  
BOROUGH.****HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL  
NURSE.**

Applications are invited by the Council of the above-named District for the post of FEMALE HEALTH VISITOR and SCHOOL NURSE. The duties as regards health visiting will be limited to the Gomersal portion of the Council's District. The duties of School Nurse will be to assist generally in the medical inspection of school children throughout the Council's area.

Candidates must be fully-certificated Nurses, and possess the certificate of the Central Midwives Board or Royal Sanitary Institute, or similar examining body of Health Visitors or Sanitary Inspectors.

Salary at the rate of £95 per annum, with an annual allowance of £5 for Uniform.

Applications, on forms to be obtained at my office, must reach me not later than the 28th February, 1917.

Canvassing, either directly or indirectly, will be a disqualification.

JOHN H. LINFIELD,

Clerk to the Council.

Town Hall,  
Cleckheaton,  
5th February, 1917.

115

**COUNTY OF NORFOLK.  
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

The Norfolk County Council propose to appoint two whole-time HEALTH VISITORS for Maternity and Infant Welfare work (who will, if required, be also employed in connection with Tuberculosis and School Work).

Candidates with full Hospital training, C.M.B. certificate, or holding certificates in Health Visiting or as a Sanitary Inspector, or who possess previous experience as Health Visitor, will be given the preference.

Remuneration £100 per annum, with travelling and subsistence allowances, and an allowance of £5 per annum for Bicycle and £5 per annum for Uniform.

Applications, from duly qualified women, in candidates' own handwriting, must state age, present employment, qualifications, and must be accompanied by a summary (a form of which can be obtained from me), and by copies of three testimonials of recent date as to character, &c., to be sent to the Clerk of the County Council on or before the 3rd day of MARCH next.

G. CHRISTOPHER DAVIES,

Clerk of the Norfolk County Council.

The Shirehouse, Norwich,  
12th February, 1917.

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**IMPORTANT TO ADVERTISERS.**

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**GOOD SURGICAL SISTER**, fully trained, with maternity. Must be reliable. Salary £48. Photo. Also **NURSES** partially trained. Good salary according to experience. Matrons' references. Apply, SUPERINTENDENT, Nursing Home, Truro, Cornwall. 103

**WANTED**, a trained **NURSE** with Theatre experience. Excellent work. Comfortable home. Salary beginning at £40 per year. Apply to MISS PELL SMITH, Home Hospital, De Montfort Square, Leicester. 102

**REQUIRED**, Trained **NURSE**, with thorough knowledge of babies and infants, for small Hostel in Chelsea. Salary £35. Apply MISS HANMER, Westerham, Kent. 100

**WANTED**, two **PROBATIONERS**. Good preparation for general training. Apply to MISS PELL SMITH, Home Hospital, De Montfort Square, Leicester. 101

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Apply to the GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Applicants are invited to call at the above address on Thursdays, between 2 and 4 p.m. Interviews may be arranged on other days by appointment. 5

**QUEEN'S NURSES WANTED:—**

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Bedford.—Two, General. Cyclists. Salaries £40, usual allowances. Apply **NURSING SUPERINTENDENT FOR ENGLAND**, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 98

**MIDDLESBROUGH DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION**.—REQUIRED three years' trained **NURSES**. C.M.B. cert. desirable. In and Outdoor Uniform, Board, &c. Salary, £33, rising to £40. Apply to SUPERINTENDENT. 17

**RANYARD NURSES**.—WANTED, fully trained Hospital **NURSES** willing to devote themselves to nursing the sick poor in London. Free District Training and Lectures given. Age, 25 to 40. For particulars as to salary, &c., apply to The Secretaries, Ranyard House, 25, Russell Square, W.C. 14



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**CITY OF LONDON LYING-IN HOSPITAL,**  
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Pupils specially trained in Midwifery and Monthly Nursing and for the Examination of the Central Midwives Board. 1,100 In-patients and 658 Out-patients in 191.

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Address LADY SUPERINTENDENT. 4

**THE MILITARY FAMILIES HOSPITAL, DEVONPORT.**

TWO PUPILS WANTED at once.

Free training for C.M.B. with salary.

Apply to the MATRON, Military Families Hospital, Devonport. 96

**QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S LYING-IN HOSPITAL, MARYLEBONE, N.W.**

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20, Tamar Terrace, Devonport.

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Apply, Alexandra Nurses' Home. 34

**MASSAGE.**

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MISS GOLDSMITH, 17, Lime Grove, Oxford Road. 87

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**EDINBURGH SCHOOL OF MASSAGE.** Full instruction given. Students prepared for Incorporated Society's examinations. MISS HASTINGS, 20, Dublin Street. 88

**NURSING HOMES.**

**MANNAMHEAD HOME,** The Grove, Blackheath, S.E. Established 1893. Rest-cure and Chronic Invalids received. Terms from £2 2s. Prospectus on application. 10

**THE IMPERIAL NURSES' CLUB,** 137, EBURY STREET, LONDON, S.W. Telephone: 6016 Victoria.

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Terms: Room per week, 25s. Cubicles per week, 19s. 6d.

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Apply, Misses Holman & Flinn. 1

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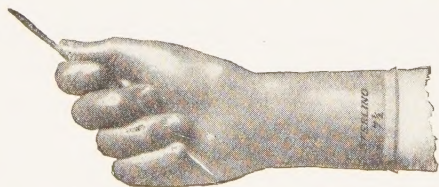
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| 10 x 12, 5/3 | " " 1/3           |

Red Rubber Circular Air Cushions

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| 15 in. | 16 in. | 17 in. | 18 in. |
| 8/6    | 9/6    | 10/6   | 11/6   |



# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE NURSING RECORD**  
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

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## EDITORIAL.

### EDUCATION IS A SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY.

The noble article appearing in *The Times* of Monday last, in which "an officer wounded on the Somme" pleads for an educational memorial, as the true war memorial, comes like a draught of cool water to parched lips to those nurses who are striving to obtain for their profession a form of organization and education under which they and their successors shall have spiritual freedom.

"A little less than 500 years ago," says the writer, "a great man desired to commemorate the end of one of the most miserable of wars in which the English nation was ever engaged. He endowed a college 'to pray for the souls of all those who fell in the grievous wars between France and England.' We stand for a moment where Chichele stood because we stand upon a world of graves. With a nobler cause we ought not to be content with a memorial less noble. We ought to perpetuate in peace the idealism of war, because that alone can deliver us from the selfish appetites that lie in wait for us in both. And if we desire to perpetuate it, how can we begin better than by founding upon it the educational system to whose influence generation after generation is submitted? A reconstruction of education, in a generous and liberal spirit, would be the noblest memorial to those who have fallen, because, though many of them were but little 'educated,' it would be the most formal recognition of the world of the spirit for which they fell. It would show that the nation was prepared to submit its life to the kind of principles for which it thought itself justified in asking them to die."

The writer goes on to show that "the fundamental obstacle in the way of educa-

tion in England is simple. It is that education is a spiritual activity which is not commercially profitable, and that the prevailing temper of Englishmen is to regard as most important that which is commercially profitable, and as of only inferior importance that which is not." This is demonstrated in our national economies: the shutting up of museums, not of expensive restaurants, the shortening of the life of school children to meet the shortage of labour. "It is the expression of the scale of values which rules in the minds of most individuals, and which therefore rules in the State, and we shall not make any serious progress until that scale is reversed . . . Courage is a great gift and deserves to be revered because it is so common and reveals the true nature of man. But insight, respect for truth, and contempt for charlatanism, a lucid and piercing intelligence which appraises facts for what they are, and sees through pompous pretences, are also great gifts. We do not reverence them at all in our ordinary life, and so we cannot command them, even when we would give anything to possess them. We cannot command them because, as a nation, we value material possessions, and take pains to acquire them, more than we take pains to acquire spiritual qualities."

Those nurses who love spiritual freedom and fight for it in the organization of their profession may take heart of grace. The material never yet overcame the spiritual. Think, if you will, of the grievous scene on the 18th of January last when a solid mass of members of the Royal British Nurses' Association faced by a platform of its male Hon. Officers, supported by their solicitor, bartered, without a question or a protest, their Charter of professional liberty for what seemed to them, for the moment, material well-being. Who could look on those rows of faces and not realize the absence of the spirit in the dumb body?



Think again of the freedom of spirit animating national and international gatherings of self-governing nurses. Materialism may endeavour to quench it, may offer the world-old bribe "all these things will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me." But the free spirit will rise as it has ever risen, unquenched and unconquerable. Nothing can daunt it, for even Death himself comes as a friend who holds the key of life.

### OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

DESCRIBE HOW TO GIVE A NASAL DOUCHE, THE ARTICLES USED, AND DANGER TO AVOID.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Janie Vance McNeillie, Knockoid, Ervie, Stranraer.

#### PRIZE PAPER.

A nasal douche is administered with the patient in the sitting position, his head slightly inclined forwards over a basin suitably placed, or held by him, for the reception of the fluid as it leaves the nostril. He must open his mouth wide; this causes the soft palate to close the posterior nares, then the tube should be directed up one nostril, and the return current will soon begin to flow down the other, thus the whole nasal cavity will be effectually washed out.

*The articles used* are a basin to catch the escaping fluid, a douche-can or vessel with indiarubber tube, provided with a U-shaped elbow to fit the edge of the vessel, and fitted with a vulcanite stopcock, an additional piece of rubber tubing being attached with a vulcanite or glass nose-piece, placed not more than two feet above the patient's head, and containing the saline or prescribed solution. Or the douche may be given by the use of a Higginson's syringe, a large glass syringe with the necessary tubing and nozzle, or any suitable syphon apparatus by which a steady flow of the solution is obtained.

*To avoid the danger* of the solution flowing down the larynx, instruct the patient to maintain the attitude above described. The mouth must be free from any loose or movable material, and must be kept open. Insist that he breathe rather noisily at first, and that he resist any desire to swallow or close his mouth. The soft palate closes up the passage from the nose to the throat, and the fluid passes up one nostril, travels round the back of the septum to

the posterior opening of the other nostril, down which it flows.

As it is dangerous to use the solution too hot, it is well to have definite instructions from the doctor as to the temperature as well as the quantity, and the special antiseptic he prescribes. Ordinarily the surgically-clean vessel and tubes and nose-piece are warmed by letting a stream of plain sterile water at a temperature of 100° F. run through; and then the solution to be employed—also at a temperature of 100° F. (which can be easily cooled or regulated as directed), till it reaches the nose-piece. It is introduced gently and carefully, and a steady flow maintained by regulating the stopcock or by continuous gentle pressure and working of the Higginson's syringe. Cease before the fluid is all used, so as not to introduce air. If the patient complains of pain in the ears, discontinue the use of the nasal douche, and report to the doctor, who may wish to have it discontinued.

#### HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss C. G. Cheatley, Miss G. L. Sheppard, Miss F. Stanley, Miss M. Robinson, Miss J. Pitman.

Miss Cheatley writes:—"Great gentleness is required in syringing or douching the nose, as too much force might send the discharge or mucus into the passages leading to the ears, and set up septic trouble there."

Miss Sheppard writes in relation to the danger to avoid:—" (1) At the back of the nasal cavities, on each side, is the opening of the Eustachian tube, which leads into the middle ear, and if any force is used in giving the douche, some of the discharge may be driven up the tube into the ears, and there set up inflammation. Some cases of ear disease originate in this way. (2) Never force the lotion into the nose when it is blocked by inflammatory swelling. (3) Be sure to impress upon the patient to keep his mouth open, or the lotion may run down the back of the nose into his throat. (4) Do not have the lotion too hot or too cold."

#### QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What is intussusception? How would you prepare the patient for operation, and what instruments and dressings would be necessary?

We are officially informed that the Report of the Committee on the Supply of Nurses, which is being awaited with much interest, is at present being considered by the Army Council, and is not yet available for publication.



## MEDICAL MATTERS.

## TETANUS AFTER "TRENCH FOOT."

Sir David Bruce called attention in a recent issue of the *British Medical Journal* to the occurrence of tetanus after trench foot. Fifteen cases had been recorded within a few weeks, and in eight of these, of which details were obtained, the disease was severe; six of the patients died, two cases after only one day's illness, three after two days' illness, and one after five days. This, as he said, was a return to the picture of tetanus before prophylactic injections were in use, and he urged any medical officer who might be in charge of a case of trench foot to give a prophylactic injection of antitetanic serum, and to repeat it at intervals of seven days until the wounds were clean. This advice, says the B.M.J., is reinforced by a communication made to the French Academy of Sciences by Drs. A. Lumière and A. Astier. They stated that out of ninety cases of tetanus received in the Lyons hospitals since the beginning of the war in five the disease followed frostbite of the feet. This is a ratio of 5.55 per cent., truly a very large proportion. While admitting that the tetanus bacillus may display a preference for the foul ulcers caused by severe frostbite, they agree that the more reasonable explanation is that the usual prophylactic injection of antitetanic serum was not given.

## THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

The text of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which was introduced by the Home Secretary in the House of Commons on Monday, February 19th, is now published. Substantial penalties are provided in the case of persons suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form who act in a way rendering them liable to convey it to others. The term disorderly house is to include premises "used for the purposes of habitual prostitution," and the penalty on a first conviction is a fine of £100 or three months, £250 or six months on a second conviction, £500 or twelve months on a third. Sir George Cave said that the present penalties for keeping such houses were of no use at all as a deterrent, having regard to the profits made in this horrible trade. Both the publisher and distributor of indecent pictures or advertisements are to be liable to a fine of £100, or six months' imprisonment; instead of 40s. fine and one month, and £5 fine and three months.

The Bill was read a second time.

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

## ROYAL RED CROSS.

Every time His Majesty holds an Investiture at Buckingham Palace the Nursing Profession is honoured by the King decorating some of its members with the Royal Red Cross, and on Wednesday, 14th inst., and Saturday last the following ladies attended and received this mark of favour:—

FIRST CLASS.—Sister Jean Murray, Territorial Force Nursing Service, attached Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

SECOND CLASS.—Matron Christine MacLeod, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

FIRST CLASS.—Matron Annie Nunn, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service.

SECOND CLASS.—Matron Maud Brasier, British Red Cross Society; and Sister Nora Dalrymple, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

On both occasions Queen Alexandra received at Marlborough House the Matrons and Nurses of the Military Nursing Services subsequent to the Investiture, and, as she has previously done, presented them with a signed photograph of herself and a copy of "The Way of the Red Cross."

"R.R.C.'s" are greatly appreciated by the fellow-workers of the ladies decorated.

Miss Lilian Dunbabin, whose home is at Liverpool and who is Sister-in-Charge of the Hill Military Hospital, Lower Bourne, was upon her return from London entertained at luncheon by Major Gore Browne and Miss Gore Browne, and after a visit to the theatre, arrived back at The Hill, where a "guard of honour" awaited her, consisting of her patients, who formed a "triumphal arch" of crutches and gave her a rousing reception.

The Staff of Lees Court Military Hospital, Faversham, have marked the occasion by presenting Sister-in-Charge Daisy Stevens with a pair of silver-backed hair brushes.

The colleagues of Sister Isabella Dickson, attached to the 1st Birmingham War Hospital, are greatly pleased that she has received just recognition for services rendered.

Sister Dickson was at Osborne Naval College previously, and on the outbreak of the present war volunteered for service. She was sent to France, and afterwards volunteered for service in Serbia, where nurses were urgently required to deal with a typhus epidemic. For her excellent services in the stricken country she was given the Serbian Order of Charity by King Peter. Miss Dickson was trained at the Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh.

The bestowal of the R.R.C. on Miss M. Flynn, Matron of the Military Hospital, Victoria Barracks, Belfast, has caused great satisfaction. Miss Flynn



is a member of the private nursing staff at the London Hospital, where she was trained, and was posted at mobilisation to the military hospital in Belfast as Sister-in-Charge. Shortly afterwards she was promoted to her present rank of Matron.

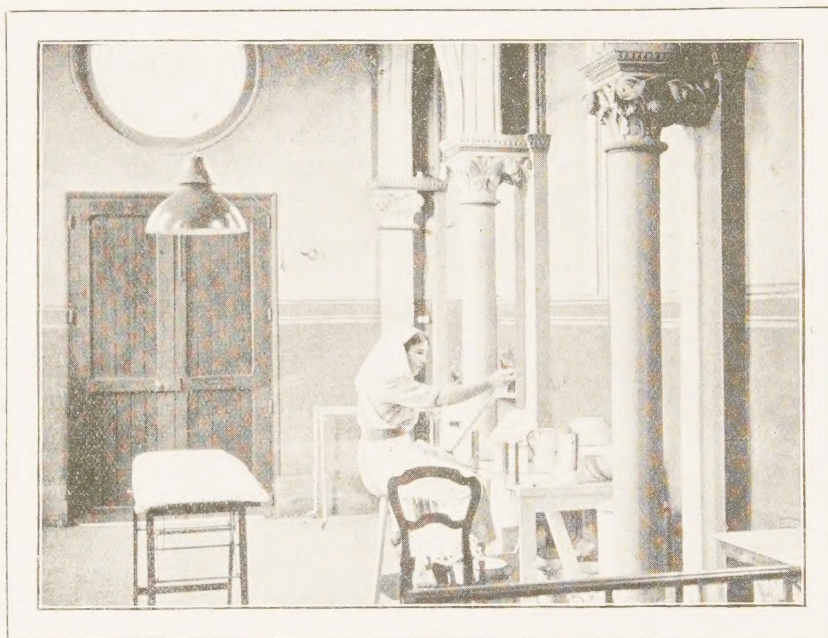
Some of the delegates to the Allies' Conference, including Lord Revelstoke and Sir J. Hanbury-Williams, recently visited the Anglo-Russian Hospital at Petrograd, where there are 160 wounded. The visitors were received by the acting Matron, Miss Gorrie, and Dr. Flavelle, who has just returned from the Carpathians, where a field detachment of the hospital is working under Dr. Aspland.

The Ladies' Committee, St. John of Jerusalem, hold many interesting monthly meetings at St. John's Gate, when after a report of all the good work being done, some special war-worker addresses the meeting. Last week Mr. C. B. Palmer told us of "Glorious France," in connection with the efforts throughout the country which are being made for the alleviation of the sick and wounded. He spoke very enthusiastically of the *Spirit of France*, all that is being done by rich and poor to win the war by self-denial and hard work, and of the various societies caring for the sick. Mr. Palmer visits hospitals throughout France for the Comité de Londres, Croix Rouge Française, and had great praise for many things. We could not, of course, agree with an opinion he quoted of one of our R.A.M.C. officers that the work of the "Dames," however devoted, is equal to that of the best-trained English Nurses. We wondered what of the personal cleanliness and comfort of the patient, which is the very pith of Nursing, and which we know is not so highly considered in French Military Hospitals as in those under English rule. Of surgical technique we need say nothing—the French ladies often excel in that branch. We think Nursing should be inspected by a Trained Nurse.

Lady Perrott always inspired by generous thought for the Sisters had on view a lovely trench coat, waterproof and fleece lined, to be sent as a gift to the Night Superintendent at the St. John Ambulance Brigade Hospital at Etaples,

where the cold has been surpassing terrible during the winter. There was a little money over from the Christmas Gift Fund, so this very necessary garment and screens are to be supplied. Miss Ethel Deane, late of *The Queen*, is now Quartermaster and in charge of the Supply Depot at Halkyn House, Belgrave Square, S.W., where stores are gathered, and garments made for the Brigade Hospital. She is in need of helpers who can attend regularly from 10 to 1 daily, as there is an enormous amount of work to be done to keep the hospital equipped.

Miss M. Wilkinson, Matron, and about 40 V.A.D. nurses of the Perth Red Cross Hospital have resigned. It is understood that the resignations are the result of the re-arrangement of



THE OPERATING THEATRE OF THE URGENCY CASES HOSPITAL.  
IN THE CHAPEL OF THE CHATEAU FAUX MIROIR NEAR REVIGNY.

conditions, in the possible success of which the resigning members express their disbelief. That there is something more than meets the eye seems clear from the fact that the Duchess of Atholl, President of the Perthshire branch of the British Red Cross Society has stated in the press that any rumours reflecting on the personal character of the Matron and Staff are entirely without foundation, and that the resignations were spontaneous, and much regretted by the Committee. To circulate unfounded rumours reflecting on the personal character of professional people is a serious matter by whomsoever started, and we hope the B.R.C.S. will take steps to protect trained nurses working under its authority from this insidious and despicable form of detraction. Nothing can be meaner.



## CHRISTMAS DAY IN GALICIA, 1916.

We are only two English Sisters (or rather one Scotch and one Irish) in the small-pox "barak" in Thusta, a small town in Galicia, but we determined to have as good a time as was possible under the circumstances. The other members of our household—a Russian Sister who acts as our housekeeper, the young Austrian doctor (really only a two years' medical student), and our clerk, all celebrate their Christmas on the Russian date, thirteen days later than ours.

There was no exchange of presents (shops being conspicuous by their absence here), except of English and Russian money as "luck money," so the Russian Sister, who speaks a good deal of English, called it.

We were kept busy all the morning in the hospital, which happens to be full (twenty patients) just when we would not mind if it had been a little slacker; but we managed to find time to go to the Polish R.C. church here. We did not stay long as it was packed to overflowing, and when others came in the crush and pushing were more like that at the early doors of the theatre than in church.

After lunch we prepared for our dinner-party. We had made the plum pudding a couple of weeks before, but there were cakes to be iced, the turkey to be stuffed, &c. Neither of us had ever stuffed a turkey before, and we were not quite sure which end was the proper place for it, but we thought the chest, and I believe we were right. We laid the table also ourselves, as our two "housemaids" are two young Galician boys, who looked fine in white overalls, and waited splendidly on the whole. We decorated the table with ivy dug out from under the snow, and the room itself was very festive with several small Christmas trees. We had twenty in the house altogether, one even at the head of each of our beds. This, by the way, was *not* our doing, needless to say.

We were visited during the day by parties of boys dressed up, some to represent Herod and the wise men, others the shepherds. To make the latter more real one boy represented a ram, and looked very comical. They sang and spoke parts which I'm sure we would have enjoyed if we could have understood a word of it, but it was all in Polish. Sister got some of them to pose for a photograph, and thoroughly they enjoyed it. As I write another party of six have visited me in my bedroom (without a "by your leave") and gone through their drama for my sole benefit.

Our dinner was quite a success, the turkey, including the stuffing and plum pudding, being quite homelike. We invited the Commandant, who is the principal man in the town, the "Chief of the district" (I am not quite sure what that is really), a Russian doctor, and two Russian Sisters. At the last moment the Commandant failed us, owing to illness, and the doctor, owing to a press of work. We were particularly disappointed about the latter, as he had promised us some brandy to fire the plum pudding, and to drink to "Absent

Friends." We had to toast them in coffee, the strongest drink we could produce, alcoholic drinks being impossible to buy.

The chief of the district is an ex-opera singer with a glorious baritone voice, so he did most of the entertaining. Our grand piano has been rescued from some ruins. Some of the notes are soundless, most of the ivory has gone from them, and the whole is terribly out of tune. Nevertheless we got some good fun out of it. We had some dancing and we gave the Russians a lesson in the Scotch Reel.

Our guests went soon after ten o'clock, and all said they had greatly enjoyed their first English Christmas dinner. We are a branch of the Epidemic hospital in Zaleschiki, twenty versts away. They will have been a much larger party but I doubt if they managed to have a better time than we did.

Our patients are all peasants from surrounding districts, and as none of them spoke of yesterday as being their Christmas, I presume they all celebrate it on the Russian date. We mean to give them as good a time as is possible, though it is hard to get anything here in this small place. We will probably have a Christmas tree with some little thing for each and an extra good dinner.

Nursing small-pox is not an enjoyable pastime, but it is an experience I am glad to have had. We hope the epidemic will soon be stamped out. We have been open nearly two months, have had forty-two patients and four deaths, all from black small-pox, of which we had several cases at first. When we took over the building which was destined for our hospital, there were no doors or windows, and horses were stabled in it, but soon we had it quite like a hospital. We take it in turns to come here two at a time, and never stay for more than a fortnight.

## WOUNDED ALLIES RELIEF COMMITTEE.

Concerning last year's work of the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, 8, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W., some interesting facts are reported. At the Committee's Branch of the Kensington War Hospital Supply Depot, 176, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, no less than 383,500 hospital requisites were made, and from these 170 consignments have been sent to over 120 hospitals. During the year the Committee have sent to the allied countries the following: To Belgium, motor operating theatre, two bath caravans, two hospital tents, one case of games each to nineteen Belgian hospitals; to France, three motor ambulances, bandages, splints, hospital clothing and special grants of warm clothing; to Portugal, bandages, splints, hospital clothing; to Russia, four motor ambulances, quantities of splints, bandages, and hospital clothing; to Roumania, drugs, surgical appliances and hospital requisites, to the value of £600; to Serbia (in addition to stores and one motor ambulance sent to the Committee's hospital at Vodena, Greece), one motor car and large quantities of splints, bandages, and hospital clothing.



## THE SURGICAL REQUISITES ASSOCIATION.

Among the many and varied occupations for the relief of the grievous sufferings and disabilities of wounded soldiers is that of the Surgical Requisites Association, at 17, Mulberry Walk, Church Street, Chelsea, S.W., a house lent to the Association by Major Armstrong, I.M.S.

The distinctive features of its work are the numerous clever inventions and improvements upon existing appliances, which have not only

menta with her. The room where the splints are moulded on to the models is very workmanlike. The workers, in spite of their exacting occupations, most courteously and patiently stop to explain the intricacies of their craft.

The papier-mâché splint, which is at the same time perfectly rigid and beautifully light, is manufactured from old sugar bags applied in very small pieces, in order to secure perfect fitting, as any wrinkle or bubble is fatal to its success. It is rendered waterproof and adhesive by means of cotton wool melted in copper and a strong solution of ammonia. This process is repeated till six



MISS ACHESON, THE WELL-KNOWN SCULPTOR,  
TEACHING PRINCESS GALITZINE TO APPLY A PAPIER MÂCHÉ SPLINT.

found their origin in the fertile brain of women, but have been given practical expression to by their clever hands.

Miss Acheson, who is in charge of the cast department, is by profession a sculptor, and thus is eminently fitted for her responsible post. So far she has practically taken every model herself. She prefers the patients to come to her workroom, where every requisite is at hand, but there are, of course, many who have to be attended at their various hospitals, which necessitates her taking cumbersome and necessarily "messy" impedi-

layers have been applied. The splint is dried between each application by means of a hot-air electric fan. The labour is voluntary, and the sugar paper is collected by Boy Scouts from neighbouring grocery firms, so that the cost is very small.

Another admirable appliance both in its conception and development is the "Drop-foot splint," invented by Miss Hallé. It enables a patient suffering from this distressing condition, who frequently is unable to stand even with crutches, to stand and walk with comparative comfort. A patient returned to Miss Hallé



recently, much to her disappointment, with the boot in a somewhat damaged condition, but she was comforted to learn that it was not owing to any defect in its construction, as the patient admitted he had been dancing in it all the night before. The boots are covered with leather (from gifts of old motor coats), stitched, soled, and heeled by this clever lady.

They are made with an adjustable foot-piece, which enables the foot to be screwed up to the proper angle. They have proved such a comfort that, owing to the men refusing to part with them at night, she has invented a light canvas night boot. We suppose dancing pumps will follow.

Another department is in charge of Mrs. Sannyer Atkin. Here are the padded wooden and flexible metal splints. It is her proud boast that hers is a department of constant progress, and that almost every week some new development is achieved both in the comfort and efficacy of the various splints. For instance, our old friend the Macintyre is improved almost out of recognition. It is now fitted with wooden screws, owing to the difficulty of obtaining metal and labour. But Mrs. Sannyer Atkin is not content with improving, she has invented several most scientific and comfortable splints, noticeably a flexible jaw splint, and a splint which can be adjusted to any angle, and which for want of a better name she calls a "Limb Straightener." We have no space to comment further on the various ingenious splints in this department, but we should advise all nurses who have opportunity to pay a visit to this Depot.

We must mention briefly only the limb baths, which are made of papier-mâché like the splints, and like them are perfectly waterproof. We should like to be allowed to compliment these ladies on their remarkable and splendid contribution to the needs of the wounded.

H. H.

### JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Joint Finance Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem for the year ended October 20th, 1916, is an interesting document, published at 83, Pall Mall, S.W., price 1s. It is very satisfactory that the Committee are able to report that while they have spent over £1,800,000 in the past year, they have received a sum so much greater that they have in hand a balance sufficient to meet the estimated expenses during the current year; but, having regard to probable liabilities on the declaration of Peace, when donations will probably cease, the reserves cannot, the Committee state, be regarded as excessive.

We greatly regret that, for lack of space, we are unable to publish this week replies to questions concerning the Constitution of the proposed Royal British College of Nursing sent to us by Irish nurses. They will appear next week.

### THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 431, Oxford Street, on Saturday, the 17th inst. After the election of members the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, made a report on the political situation in so far as their Bill (Central Committee) was concerned. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law had elected with the support of the House of Commons, to take all the time of the House for Government business, and that therefore no private member's Bill could be introduced this Session, Dr. Chapple would be unable to bring in the Nurses' Registration Bill. The question was, would the Government bring in a Bill or not?

After discussion the Committee decided on its policy in connection with the question of Nurses' Registration, the President having reminded the meeting that to secure a Bill for this purpose was the sole object for which the Society was formed, and for which it had worked so enthusiastically for fifteen years, during which time it had drafted and had introduced into the House of Commons the First Nurses' Registration Bill—had its Bill passed by the House of Lords, and educated the public and the Legislature all over the country; in spite of keen opposition and press misrepresentation; a fine record of which every member might be proud—and largely due to the influence of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING which alone voiced the Nurses' point of view in support of State Registration throughout the controversy.

#### ATTACK ON THE SOCIETY BY MISS SPARSHOTT.

In this connection the President brought to the notice of the Committee the attack made by Miss Sparshott, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and a member of the Council of the College of Nursing, on the self-governing Societies of Trained Nurses grouped in the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and those affiliated in the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, at a meeting of the N.U.T.N. held at the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, on the 10th inst. Miss Sparshott stated that "the National Council of Trained Nurses in its depth meant opposition to the College . . . that the National Union had joined itself on to a group of Societies which have declared war on the College. The two really alive Societies in the group the Scottish Registration Society and the Royal British Nurses' Association have both passed resolutions showing their dissatisfaction with the action of the Central Committee yet the Union knowing this state of affairs joined itself on to this group of societies. I think the National Union by joining this group has acted very much like a small child they cannot get their own way therefore they sulk." Miss Sparshott said further



"that by joining the Central Committee the Union had committed an overt act of opposition to the College—and further that the Matrons as women of experience and knowledge should suggest, direct, and control the College."

The President pointed out that this autocratic spirit—practically denying to the rank and file of the nursing profession a right to think, speak and judge for themselves concerning their own affairs, apparently animated several of the Matrons on the College Council long known for their irreconcilable anti-registration policy in the past, of which intolerance Miss Sparshott had been a typical example. The R.B.N.A. and the Association for promoting Registration of Nurses in Scotland were not self-governing Societies of Trained Nurses, but conjoint societies of medical men and nurses, and they were outvoted by twenty votes to two on the Central Committee when it elected to amend and continue to run its own Nurses' Registration Bill, work for which it was constituted long before the College Company was in existence. In this connection she pointed out that since that time the R.B.N.A. had elected to cease to exist, and had practically made a gift of its Royal Charter to the College—and had the Central Committee agreed to the suggestions of the College, it also, no doubt unintentionally, would have committed suicide, and in her opinion betrayed its trust to the Constituent Societies of which it was formed. To prove it was a "live" Society the Committee unanimously passed the following resolution proposed by Miss Marquardt, Matron of St. Giles Infirmary, Camberwell, and seconded by Miss Ross, Matron, Western Fever Hospital, Fulham.

The Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses having read the attack made by Miss Sparshott, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, upon the self-governing societies of nurses associated in the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and the National Council of Trained Nurses, of which this Society is one, indignantly protests against the claim advanced that the Nursing Profession at large should be governed by a nominated Council of Matrons of Hospitals. It claims the right of trained nurses to elect their own representatives on any Governing Body set up to control it, and is of the opinion that the autocratic policy of the Council of the College of Nursing, Limited, of which Miss Sparshott is a member, constitutes a serious danger to the economic and professional liberties of Trained Nurses.

After other business had been transacted the meeting terminated.

MARGARET BREAY,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

### FOR A JUST BILL.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses acknowledges with thanks the following donations:—Mrs. G. F. Wates, £1 1s.; Miss M. Dempster, 10s.; Miss M. Harvey, 6s.; Miss E. Thompson, 6s.; Miss Le Geyt, 5s.; Miss E. M. Ambrose, 4s.

## NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

### THE BATH BRANCH.

The Bath Branch held its annual meeting on February 12th. It was stated that the War Savings Association for Nurses, which had been initiated at the last Members' Meeting, was working very successfully, about eighty Bath nurses having joined.

Miss E. L. C. Eden spoke of the various activities of the Union, and pointed out how it was now the only nationally organized self-governing professional society of nurses in England open to nurses of all training schools, and that its effectiveness depended now mainly on the number and "backbone" of its members. The Central Office was becoming widely known as a place to which members could turn for advice and which devoted itself to the interests of nurses. This fact was much appreciated by Colonial nurses.

Miss Eden then spoke on the developments in the movement to obtain State Registration, and showed how the Central Committee had been forced to give up their effort to come to an agreement with the College of Nursing when the latter refused to have a conjoint Bill granting the right of the Central Committee (which is made up of representatives of the Nurses' Societies and the B.M.A.) to appoint representatives on the first Council under the Bill, and not merely to nominate individuals on to a College Bill. She showed how these affiliated societies had done all the work for State Registration in the past and had succeeded in getting a Bill passed by the House of Lords in 1908 and one accepted for reading in the House of Commons in 1914. She showed how the right of representation was accorded the Teachers for their Council, and how it was the only way in which the opinion of the nurses outside the College could be brought to influence the formation of the rules of the Statutory Body, and expressed her conviction that only by the acceptance of this principle could the united support of the profession be obtained.

The Bath Branch unanimously passed a resolution expressing their strong opinion that the College should provide for this representation definitely in any Bill drafted by it.

### LANCASHIRE NURSES MUST CLAIM POWER TO CO-OPERATE.

We have to thank Miss A. Turner, the Deputy Secretary of the Manchester Branch of the N.U.T.N. for a report of the meeting held at the Royal Infirmary, on the 10th inst. It arrived too late for insertion. We learn that Miss Sparshott expects the N.U.T.N. to change its policy at her dictation, but she appears to forget that it is a Nurses' Union and if she and other Manchester members feel that they can no longer support a union "founded to maintain the highest ideals of the Nursing Profession," and we count freedom of action amongst them, they should retire, and leave Lancashire women to manage their own affairs. They believe in co-operation.



## THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., AND IRISH NURSES.

The Honble. Albinia Brodrick, a highly trained nurse and social reform worker, whose devoted labours on behalf of her beloved country—Ireland, are so well known and appreciated, last week contributed the following professional expression of opinion on the College of Nursing scheme in the *Weekly Irish Times*.

### SELF GOVERNMENT FOR IRISH NURSES DEMANDED.

SIR,—You are, I observe, opening your columns for the discussion of the so-called College of Nursing, its possible benefits to the trained nurse, its scope, its aims. It is, I believe, the first time in history that amateurs have set out to organize a body of highly skilled workers, belonging to a profession requiring advanced technical proficiency and scientific knowledge, on what appear to themselves serious lines. The old guilds of the craftsmen of the Middle Ages in all countries were officered and managed by their own members. In our own day the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, the Apothecaries, Musicians, Labour Organizations, Oddfellows, are manned and governed not from the outside, but from the inside of their respective professions, societies, and trades. This, on the face of it, looks like common-sense. Yet, in this twentieth century, we of the Nursing profession, on the skilful practice of which the health, the lives, and the dearest hopes of the nation and the race depend, are called upon to sacrifice our liberty, the dignity of our profession, and the welfare of humanity to the whim of amateurs, of a few reactionary members, well known to us all, of our own profession, and of some of the sister profession.

What are we Nurses to gain by this unholy combination? A Nurses' Registration Bill? We have already our own Registration Bill, the outcome of our own professional efforts, and need no other. Our Bill is no retrograde or reactionary one. Unlike the one suggested by the "Council" of the proposed Nursing College, it issues from Nurses, is supported by the forward party in the Nursing world, and provides for government of ourselves by ourselves. The National Council of Nurses and the National Union of Nurses in England, the Scottish Nurses' Association, the Irish Nurses' Association, have all repeatedly affirmed their belief in this carefully thought out measure, supported by the Medical Profession both in England and in Ireland.

But the "College" promises—its promises are many, and not always easy to see through—benefits apart from registration. To collect them briefly they are:—

1. A Patron. Do we Nurses want patronage?
2. A Council partly elected by Nurses. Not for two years, however, until the bye-laws are irrevocably fixed, and with the distinct understanding that the Governing Body may have *anyone* elected on to it, no matter whom or what they may be.
3. Persons and bodies "interested" in the question of Nursing are eligible for the Governing Body and the Consultative Board. But these are the very people we Nurses do not desire to see on them. We all have experience of such persons, and of their colossal ignorance, and we do not propose to give them the opportunity of governing us.

Can any of us be so dense as to pay the sum of one guinea, on the strength of such promises and the advantage of a second-hand Registration Bill? It is true that we have long been a down-trodden Profession. But just

as the day is dawning for us after twenty-five years of hard work in the fight for Registration, is it likely that we shall lay aside the substance for this shadow? Naturally the "College" wants our guineas. Without them it cannot properly subjugate us.

Consider the history of this "College." There has been muddling, as we Nurses know well, in the War Nursing. Some of those partly responsible for this muddle fancy themselves as the Heaven-sent organisers of the future of Nursing—step one. Step two—Having been unaware of the fact previously, it was borne in upon them later that there was a matter called Registration, and that Nurses meant to have Registration, adoption of Registration. Step three—Further surprise, on finding that Nurses had already societies and aims of their own, and half-hearted, but very unbusiness-like consultations with representatives of these societies. Step four—Left in the lurch by these societies, who stood firmly by the principle of the Nursing profession, like other professions, being a self-governing one. Step five—End of the College of Nursing Limited, and amalgamation with what remains of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the latter losing thereby their hard-won charter. Step six (so far as Ireland is concerned)—An attempt to rush Irish Nurses into the fancy scheme for their destruction as a responsible self-governing body, by sending over two ladies, who, after dealing out probabilities and promises most generously, held up before us the bogey of being left out of the fancy scheme. And who would suffer if we were? Why, the College, that would not get our guineas.

Poor College. It would be profoundly laughable, were it not so grievous, to find at this time, when America, Australia, and New Zealand are forging ahead on splendid lines of Self-Government in the Nursing Profession, a body of English people going back to the feudal principle, now as extinct as the Dodo, and actually holding it out to us on this side of the water as a joy and a delight. What *do* they take us for? V.A.D.?

ALBINIA BRODRICK.

### CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT NURSING IN LONDON.

The Annual Meeting of the Central Council for District Nursing in London was held, by permission of the Chairman of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, in the Board Room at its Offices, on Friday, February 16th. Sir William Collins presided.

The adoption of the Report of the Executive Committee was moved by Sir Arthur Downes, the Chairman. The Report stated that Mr. Briant had been appointed Vice-Chairman, and Miss Hughes and Miss Puxley Hon. Secretaries of the Committee. The heaviest work fell upon the Organization Sub-Committee, of which Mr. Briant was elected Chairman.

Of changes in the personnel of the Council, Dr. Ethel Bentham and Miss Marsters have been elected members since the last Annual Meeting, the former nominated by the Panel Committee for the County of London, *vice* Dr. Hudson, the latter by the National Union of Trained Nurses, *vice* Miss Joseph.

The Draft Annual Report for the year 1916 was then submitted to the Council with the



recommendation that it be approved and published. It stated that the scheme for the district nursing of measles and whooping-cough referred to in the last annual report was favourably received and had met with a gratifying and public-spirited response from the District Nursing Associations. In six months two-thirds of them had already taken up the work, and eight were prepared to do so as soon as satisfactory arrangements could be made; two only had not adapted their rules to meet the requirement. Seven of the sanitary authorities concerned had, in October last, agreed to pay for the nursing of cases among the poorer inhabitants of their districts.

The Report called attention to the Order of the Local Government Board of September 23rd last, whereby substantial payments from the Maternity and Child-Welfare Grants may in future be made in aid of satisfactory arrangements for the district nursing of poor children of tender years. It also stated that the district nursing of the other diseases of young children, notably of epidemic diarrhoea and of ophthalmia neonatorum, is engaging the care of the Committee, and they have presented a special report on the last named disease.\*

Each of these formidable diseases, it was stated, demands assiduous and continual nursing care, and each is consequently a heavy charge on the staffs of the Associations. At the present time the call of the war and other demands for the services of trained nurses have severely depleted the ranks of the Associations, and the ever-widening field of employment has rendered it increasingly difficult to obtain recruits for this national work. This is abundantly proved by the information obtained from twenty Superintendents of the Associations affiliated to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses in London. The Ranyard Nurses, however, report that the increase of work has not been so great as anticipated, the occupation of hospital and infirmary beds being largely neutralised by the better conditions under which the people are living, which seem to have a marked influence upon the sickness.

The Superintendent of the South London District Nursing Association states that the applications from the London Hospitals for nurses to attend general cases in their own homes have been more than doubled, and they have been obliged to add two extra workers to their numbers. There has however been less poverty to contend with, and, latterly, less drunkenness. The comparative scarcity of medical men has increased somewhat the responsibility of the nurses.

The Report drew attention to the fact that the reports of the Superintendents modestly omit any reference to the difficulties and dangers of darkened streets and fog. The daily round of a district nurse in the poorer quarters and slums

of London is always arduous; under the conditions of these winter months it must often have been perilous.

In conclusion the Report stated that the Directory and Guide to District Nursing in London is approaching completion, and, if trade conditions allow and satisfactory estimates for printing are obtained, it is anticipated it may be published at an early date. It will furnish at moderate price, and in a compact and portable form, a guide to the sanitary authority, the poor-law authorities and the district nursing association, concerned in dealing with the sick poor in practically every street or alley in the Metropolis.

The district nursing of insured persons is also engaging the attention of the Executive Committee, who state that they welcome any well-considered proposal to place this matter on a systematic basis.

The Report was adopted. [The following resolution was passed.]

#### RESOLUTION.

The only item on the Agenda which raised any discussion was the motion of which notice had been given by Mr. David Pennant,

"That the establishment of a well-planned system for regulating the general training of nurses would assist the organization of District Nursing in London."

In moving his resolution Mr. Pennant said that this annual meeting of the Central Council for District Nursing was the only opportunity district nurses had of discussing questions of great importance in regard to the organization of the general training of nurses throughout the country. It was well known that in London the system of district nursing involved the employment of nurses with three years' hospital training, and six months' special training in district nursing. It was obvious that the efficiency of the system depended on a regular supply of efficiently trained hospital nurses.

For many years past the question of setting up a definite standard had been a subject of controversy and personal feeling. Years ago Miss Florence Nightingale was opposed altogether to the setting up of a definite standard. He thought that at that time she was right in considering that nurses and the public were not ready for a general standard of nurse training to be set up, but he did not doubt that if she were alive now she would take a different view, and would advise in the interest of nurses and the public that some general system of nurse training should be set up.

In that Council they regarded the matter from the public point of view, and a profession existed for the benefit of the public, not for their own. Professions were given powers to organise themselves for the benefit of the public. Thus, for the Bar, Benchers of the Inns of Court formed the authority; they represented the élite of the profession, and its training was given into their hands, but they did not look after the professional interests of the Bar. In the same way, professional authorities dealt with the training of the medical

\* We propose to deal with this report in a later issue.



profession, while the British Medical Association looked after and safeguarded the interests of doctors.

The Public was quite entitled to say to nurses "You must so organize that the regulation and control of nurses shall be in the hands of those best able to carry it out."\*

At present, when the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, with which he was connected engaged a nurse they had to rely upon their knowledge of the individual hospital or infirmary, and that she had been trained under a Matron on whose methods they could rely. He wished to impress upon the public that when a system of training for nurses was set up that the training, and regulation of the training, should be substantially in similar hands, in the hands of a body upon whom they could rely.

He had taken this opportunity of bringing forward his motion because there was a possibility—and something more than a possibility, a probability—of a College of Nursing being brought into existence to deal with these questions.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Alfred Ellis, J.P. (Federation of Metropolitan Nursing Associations).

The REV. G. BELL DOUGHTY (Association of Poor Law Unions) enquired whether Mr. Pennant's motion contained any subtle allusion to the scheme put forward by Mr. Arthur Stanley. If so, there was a great deal to be said about it. He wished to know whether support of Mr. Pennant's motion committed them to a quasi approbation of the College of Nursing.

The question was a difficult one when they came to the country districts, and the experience of those who had not the technical qualifications defined by Mr. Pennant. He did not quite know what Mr. Pennant's motion meant, as his speech had been vague but he (the speaker) considered that nurses now in practice should be entitled to consideration over a space of years.

DR. M. G. BIGGS (British Medical Association) said Mr. Pennant went into the question of the Bar, but he did not make clear what he was aiming at. He stated the standard of the Q.V.J.I. was three years' general and six months' district training. Was not that a well-planned system? Possibly he was wishful that the Council should take up the question of a uniform plan, but he did not let them into the secret of what he was aiming at, but left the matter in the air.

MR. FRANK BRIANT, J.P. (London County Council) considered that Mr. Pennant should say what he did want and mean. His suggestion was that the standard of nursing should be defined by nurses. In that Council they had only the right to speak for London, and the London Hospital differed from the standard defined by him. His resolution referred to a general "well-planned

system." What was the plan and who was to define the system? Let them know exactly what they were voting upon. He was in sympathy with the establishment of a standard, but he was not prepared to vote upon the proposition until they had something more definite and concrete before them than Mr. Pennant's indefinite resolution. If there was anything at the back of Mr. Pennant's mind, let him state what it was. What was the Central Authority he had at the back of his mind? Was he asking the Council to strengthen the hands of those who were trying to set up an Act of Parliament?

MR. PENNANT, in reply, said he would welcome the setting up of some authority by Parliament in which they had confidence which would confer the hall mark of a body they could trust. He had purposely been somewhat indefinite because the constitution of that body should be left to the nurses themselves, but it should be one which commanded public confidence.

After this explanation the motion was carried by 17 votes to 6, many not voting either way.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Metropolitan Asylums Board for the use of the Board Room.

## APPOINTMENTS.

### MATRON.

**Chelsea Hospital for Women, Arthur St., Chelsea S.W.**—Miss Ellen West has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Wandsworth Infirmary, and the Chelsea Hospital for Women, where she has successively been Staff Nurse, Temporary Night Sister, Assistant Matron, and Acting Matron. She has also been Theatre Sister at St. James's Infirmary, Wandsworth Common, S.W., and has had experience of private nursing in the United States of America.

### ASSISTANT MATRON.

**Beckett Hospital, Barnsley.**—Miss Elsie White has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and for two years has been on military service in France.

### NIGHT SISTER.

**Beckett Hospital, Barnsley.**—Miss Blanche Sawyer has been appointed Night Sister. She was trained at the County Hospital, Durham, and has held nursing appointments at the General Infirmary, Harrogate, the General Hospital, Walsall, the Monkwearmouth Hospital, and the General Infirmary, Warrington.

**Beckett Hospital, Barnsley.**—Miss Kathleen Fitzpatrick has been appointed Sister for the Theatre and small eye-wards. She was trained at the County Hospital, York.

**Elswick Sanatorium nr. Preston**—Miss Gertrude Parker has been appointed Sister. She was trained at Charing Cross Hospital, and has been Night Sister at the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, E.

\* All men's professions are entirely self-governing. Thus the hands of those best able to carry out Nursing organization are *their own*.—ED.

### QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR NURSES.

#### TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Miss Lena M. Milford is appointed to Gloucestershire C.N.A. as Supt. Miss Milford received General Training at Paddington Infirmary, District Training at Gloucester, and holds the C.M.B. certificate. She has held the appointment of Assist. Supt. of Gloucestershire C.N.A.

Miss Hannah F. Hobbs is appointed to Shropshire N.F. as Assist. Supt. Miss Hobbs received General Training at New Cross Infirmary, Wolverhampton; District Training at Liverpool (Central) and holds the C.M.B. certificate. She has since held several appointments under the Institute.

Miss Bertha Ashworth is appointed to Coventry; Miss Florence Butler, to Bexhill; Miss Mary Crosse, to Brighton; Miss Annie A. Findlay, to Huntingdon; Miss Rachel S. Kime, to Market Rasen; Miss Madoline E. Moore, to Bembridge; Miss Emma Pasfield, to Exeter; Miss Annie G. Silby, to Hammersmith.

#### JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

The following Sisters have been deputed to duty abroad:—

*Brigade Hospital, Etaples.*—Miss M. Aitken.

*Liverpool Merchants' Hospital, Etaples.*—Miss S. Park.

*Scottish Women's Hospital, Corsica.*—Miss S. Patterson Dick.

#### WEDDING BELLS.

The wedding took place at the close of the old year of Miss Nellie Grace Clements and Captain Hubert Tunstall Bates, B.A., M.B., R.A.M.C. (Territorial) at St. Barnabas Church, Bexhill. The bride who trained for three years at Kidderminster Infirmary and Children's Hospital, then subsequently at the London Hospital, volunteered for service abroad on the outbreak of war. Some of those who were fortunate enough to train with her, desire through the B.J.N. to wish every happiness in the future to Captain and Mrs. Tunstall Bates. The B.J.N. also adds felicitations. In these strenuous times, the sound of marriage bells make sweet music.

#### THE PASSING BELL.

With full military honours Miss Constance Seymour, a probationer at the Connaught Military Hospital, and youngest daughter of Lord Ernest Seymour was last week laid to rest at Aldershot. Miss Seymour contracted spotted fever, and died after two days' illness. Eight senior officers of the R.A.M.C. acted as bearers, and the gun carriage was followed by members of the nursing staff of the hospital and the R.A.M.C. The service was conducted by the Rev. Lord Victor Seymour and by the Assistant Chaplain General to the Forces.

Military honours were also accorded to Miss Doris Page, a young Red Cross Nurse, who contracted measles and pneumonia, and was buried at Exmouth last Saturday. She was the daughter of the late Colonel Page who was killed accidentally in France.

### NURSING ECHOES.

The readers of this JOURNAL will rejoice at the magnificent response of the nation in contributing 700 millions new money to the Victory Loan. We know the savings of many trained nurses have gone to swell this glorious total. One nurse told us "if it was my very last penny and no interest they should have it. We may muddle, we may be extravagant, but nothing matters but England." No doubt she meant the Empire, and Scottish, Irish, and all the British Nurses overseas feel with her.

A meeting of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held at the office in Victoria Street, when Mr. W. G. Rathbone presided. The annual report to the patron (Queen Alexandra) and the statement of accounts for 1916 were approved. It was stated that every effort would have to be made to raise sufficient funds to meet the expenditure for 1917, owing to the fact that it had been necessary to increase the number of inspectors. The names of thirty-nine nurses have been placed on the roll of Queen's Nurses, and three associations have been affiliated since the last meeting of the Council in December.

Five hundred and eighty-nine of the Queen's Nurses are away from their districts for work in connection with the war, and nineteen have received decorations in appreciation of their services.

It was reported, with deep regret, that four of the Queen's Nurses have given their lives in their country's service—Miss Ada Stanley, who contracted typhus on the hospital ship "Mauretania"; Miss Mary Burt and Miss Jessie J. Paterson, who died of dysentery while nursing in Salonika; and Miss S. E. Butler, who was accidentally drowned while nursing in San Stefan.

The Imperial Nurses' Club, 137, Ebury Street, London, S.W., is now in full working order. The "newness" inseparable from an opening day is a thing of the past, and there is an atmosphere of restfulness and home which is very inviting to nurses living either in institutions, or "in their boxes" as is the lot of most members of a nurses' club.

Ebury Street is near Victoria Station, which is the terminus of many omnibus and tram routes, as well as being on the inner circle, and omnibuses Nos. 11, 11A, 11B, and 46 from Victoria go along Buckingham Palace Road to Elizabeth Street, which leads into Ebury Street.

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therefore small, 10s. 6d. for fully trained nurses for a year, and 7s. 6d. for nurses in course of full general training. After March 25th there will be an entrance fee of 5s. and 2s. 6d. respectively. Friends may be invited to any of the rooms except the writing-room. The menu includes dinner at 1 o'clock, at a fixed price of 1s. 3d., including meat and two vegetables, sweets or cheese and biscuits, and bread. Otherwise the items are by tariff—an inviting evening meal may be selected of cold ham, beef, or tongue 6d. and 9d., poached eggs on toast 6d., scrambled eggs 7d., welsh rabbit 6d., omelette 1s., blancmange 3d., stewed fruit 3d., &c., all daintily served. For tea all the cakes, &c., are home made, and are very much appreciated by the members. The genial kindness of the Hon. Lady Superintendent, Miss C. H. Mayers, should go far to make the Club a success.

The Establishment Committee reported to the London County Council on Tuesday that a petition had been received from the nursing staff in the Public Health Department stating that the increased cost of living had so reduced the purchasing power of their salaries that they found them unable to provide necessities. The Education Committee reported that the maintenance of the Nursing Service at the present level of efficiency was essential to the public welfare, and that the Council was likely to lose the services of some of its best nurses, unless some improvement was made in their rate of remuneration. It was agreed that war wages of 5s. a week for nurses and 4s. a week for assistant superintendents should be granted, as from and including January 1st, 1917.

The Hon. Secretary of the Halifax District Nursing Association has written to express the gratitude of the Committee to the Corporation, for permitting their nurses to travel free on the tramways, as it enables the nurses to make many more visits to the sick poor than they would otherwise be able to do, thus increasing the efficiency of their work. This privilege might with justice be extended to all district nurses—as doubtless the families of many employees of the Corporation receive the skilled care of district nurses.

A Hospital Sister recently complained to us most indignantly that money was accepted from rich Germans (she didn't count naturalization, but blood) to pay for Christmas fare for the patients in her ward. "Enough to choke our Tommies, had they known it," she said. We

agree with her, but so long as rich and influential naturalised Germans are permitted to give huge sums (we feel sure of ill-gotten gains) to our charities for sick and wounded, just so long shall we suffer from "The Unseen Hand."

We have all felt the pressure of "The Unseen Hand" since the beginning of the war. No one need have any hesitation in realising its significance. The "Hand" distributes German bribes by all sorts of devious methods, and it is this form of influence which the Women's Imperial Defence Council is out to defeat, if possible. At a meeting held in the City of London recently a resolution calling upon the Government to make a full investigation into the treacherous influence in our midst, and at once to dispense with the services during the war of all Foreign Office officials who have married German subjects or who have any German connection, was unanimously carried.

In moving the resolution Mr. Joynson-Hicks said that there was a feeling that the war was not being carried on in our midst with the same energy and determination as it was in Flanders and on the sea. We must make it impossible for generations to come for Germany to build an entrenched camp in the middle of the British Empire.

Even at the present time there were 20,000 enemy aliens uninterned; 14,000 or 15,000 in the City of London. Up to last June there were 4,294 aliens living in prohibited areas.

#### NATURALISED GERMANS TRAITORS TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

"The best German from the enemy point of view is the German who appears to be the best Englishman." Whoever knew that a spy was a spy until he was caught? said Mr. Joynson-Hicks.

Naturalised Germans were only traitors to their own country. The whole brood must be got rid of."

#### UNDER THE SHADOW OF ST. PAUL'S.

Many nurses will be glad to know that the firm of Manfield—which has a wide reputation for its well-cut boots and shoes—has now opened an establishment at 59 & 60, St. Paul's Churchyard, a most convenient centre. London nurses love their Metropolitan Cathedral, and it is the ambition of everyone visiting London from other parts of the United Kingdom and overseas to see Sir Christopher Wren's great masterpiece. What more convenient than to turn in at Manfield's afterwards, and secure a pair of their famous shoes from the large variety on view?

## BOOK OF THE WEEK.

## "HEDWIG IN ENGLAND."\*

This book and its companion, "Marcia in Germany," were published some years ago, but as we think that probably many of our readers have never had them brought under their notice, we have this week departed from our custom of reviewing a recent work, in order to revive these two amusing stories, which have a special significance at this time.

Indeed, but for the date on the cover they might well have been written for the moment.

Hedwig asks leave of the Baron, her father, to visit some relations in England.

The Baron consents, but prepares Hedwig for some of the eccentricities of the English.

"A striking difference is that with us it is the women who admire and applaud the men; in old England, the stage is held by the women with their smart frocks and smart sayings, while the men sit down below clapping their appreciation."

So Hedwig, after a bewildering journey, found herself in a wealthy house in a fashionable part of London.

Instead of the motherly aunt and an effusive welcome, she was ushered by the butler into a luxurious boudoir.

Hedwig's eyes were fixed upon the fireplace, with its cheerful blaze, before which two deep armchairs were drawn up.

These might have been empty had it not been for a pair of silk ankles and grey suede shoes which protruded from one, and found their resting-place just under the mantelpiece.

The owner of the ankles was Beatrice, Hedwig's cousin.

"Awfully glad to see you, my dear Hedwig. You must have had a time of it in this infernal fog."

At the same time a figure rose from the chair on the other side of the mantelpiece, and Hedwig saw to her amazement that she had interrupted a tête-à-tête.

"Buck up, Bunny, and ring the bell, and light the spirit lamp and bring the table over to the couch, and the cake-stand, too," Miss Ilford commanded. Poor Hedwig was much affronted by Bunny's languid acknowledgment of the introduction; no clicking of heels and deep bows from that quarter. Instead of the motherly, comfortable English version of a Frau she had imagined her aunt to be, there appeared, when they were assembled before dinner, the vision of a worldly and beautiful woman dressed in the height of fashion and extravagance.

She was dining out, and then a further feeling of outrage awakened in Hedwig's breast.

Without any hint of apology, too.

"Well, I suppose I must be starting now," she observed. "Sam, you may carry my cloak downstairs, if you're good. Ta-ta, children."

How objectionable it was to Hedwig to see a woman who ought to be middle-aged, and thinking

of nothing but her family and household, coquetting with boys the age of her own son.

In a letter to her Papachen, she gives vent to her disapproval of the household in general.

Mrs. Ilford's attitude to her baby son gives Hedwig food for reflection, and she compares Nigel to a contemporary in Germany, Hans von Friednau, who would walk sedately into the room in his plain, rather coarse little garments and kiss the hand of everyone present.

Master Nigel had just been borne off by his nurse, a confused mass of delicate laces and embroidery, with white kid shoes kicking furiously.

"Dear me, babies are like other domestic items, a little of them goes a long way," Mrs. Ilford remarked, with a laugh.

The climax of outraged feeling was reached on Christmas Eve, which she spent with her cousins in a hotel by the sea.

Her aunt had gone off to Monte Carlo, and the day, so full of sentimental associations for the German girl, was spent in solitude, while her relations amused themselves on the golf course.

In a letter to Papachen, she gives way to her desolation.

"I daresay none of them have even remembered that it is Christmas Eve. I have been wondering what you will do, my poor Papachen, all alone—who will decorate your tree and brew the punch, and sing, 'O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum?'"

Papachen was making himself perfectly happy by courting a second wife during his daughter's absence.

Hedwig's visit to some middle-class relations in Suburbia presents a picture of British snobbery seldom excelled. Her typical German love affair lands her home on a wave of bliss.

We are sure that our readers will derive immense amusement and some wholesome home-truths from the perusal of this book. H. H.

## I WISH.

I wish I were a willow tree—  
Young wind in the green hair of me  
And old brown water round my feet,  
And a familiar bird to greet.

For I am such a stunted pine  
On this blue mountain-top of mine;  
Celestial hills are barren things  
Without the little voice that sings!

—By Elizabeth Bertron Fahnestock  
in the "Outlook."

## WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"There will always be two types of minds in the world. One that thinks charity the greatest of human virtues, because it holds it to be the spontaneous outpouring of the soul; the other looks rather to justice between man and man and between nation and nation, as the highest expression of the mind of man."—Mr. R. B. Cunningham Graham.

\* By W. Marchmont. London: Heinemann.



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## Prize Competition.

### RULES FOR COMPETITION.

1. Any reader of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING may compete for the prize of **FIVE SHILLINGS** which will be paid to the **writer of the best article of from 300 to 750 words on the following subject—**  
**"What is an intussusception? How would you prepare the patient for operation, and what instruments and dressings would be necessary?"**

The dated Coupon for February 24th, published on this page, must be cut out by the Competitor, and enclosed with the article she sends, with her full name and address inserted. The number of words of article to be written on left hand top corner of first page. This answer should be posted not later than **February 24th**, to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole St., London, W., marked on the envelope **"Prize Competition."** **The Name of the Winner of the Prize and the Prize Article will appear on March 3rd, 1917.**

2. The Editor's decision must be accepted by each Competitor as final and unquestionable.

Prize Competition Coupon

February 24th, 1917

Name of Competitor

Address



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

## A TRAP TO CATCH A SUNBEAM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Some of us have smiled a good deal over the visit of some rather irresponsible ladies to us Irish Nurses, to persuade us to invest our sparse guineas in some sort of a College of Nursing which changes its name as it goes along.

I look upon the whole thing as a Trap to catch a Sunbeam. The trap is cleverly set and attractively baited. The Sunbeam dances in, lets light upon the subject, and dances out again—free.

If Amateurs and Anti-registrationist perverts, want to elect and co-opt people "interested in Nursing," and control V.A.D.s, "cottage" nursing, and so on, by all means let them have scope. But when it comes to dealing with the real Nursing Profession—well, the Sunbeam dances out.

Is it not a pregnant fact that the only Charter possessed by the Profession up to now, has had to be sacrificed by the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association on joining the "College"?

Yours, &c.,

ALBINIA BRODRICK.

Ballincoona, Caher Daniel, Co. Kerry.

## "SWEET MESSENGERS OF LOVE."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I laid down my JOURNAL OF NURSING, after reading the letter from a V.A.D. signed "A Ward Gardener," to open a letter that had just arrived from my brother—a sergeant, "somewhere in France." This is his third winter in the trenches. This was what he wrote: "At present we are in a dug-out, two feet deep in water—melted snow; water is constantly dropping from the roof; we are not allowed to put out our heads during the day, but have just had some nice hot tea, made from snow melted in a petrol-can, and our boys are singing, 'Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and smile, smile, smile.'" My thoughts turned to our hospital motto, "I Serve." There was a deep longing to make up to those boys in some small measure when they come home, for the hardships they are bearing for us and the dear old country. Perhaps in the ward of a hospital we may offer willing service, arranging beautiful flowers, "Sweet Messengers of Love," sent to express in part the debt we can never repay. Our boys must have bodily care and attention; surely the Matron can be trusted to see they get it. Each one who helps them to forget the discomfort they have left behind and may have to return to is doing her bit.

Long ago the question was asked: "To what purpose is this waste?"

May those whose actions are loving continue in their good work and send their wealth of flowers to be thankfully received. They will surely hear one day, "Inasmuch as ye did it to one of the least of these, ye did it unto me."

Yours truly,

A. R. HARE.

North Bierley Union,  
Bradford.

## THE ORGANISATION OF POOR LAW NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—A controversy aroused by the College of Nursing is raging in the Poor Law world, on the question of the organisation of Poor Law Nurses in relation to registration. *The Poor Law Officers' Journal* is full of it. What do you advise us to do? You know there is a Poor Law Matrons' Association which has done much good work in the past, but entirely without consulting the rank and file. The Superintendent Nurses also co-operate together. Now Guardians all over the country who have been invited by the College to form its Consultative Board, begin to find that after all it means nothing, as under the suggested amalgamation of the College and the R.B.N.A., the powers of a Consultative Board are curtailed—a very good thing in my opinion, as it was a real white elephant. But now the Guardians here begin to think we nurses need "protection," that our interests may be ignored, and that we ought to join in with the Poor Law Officers' Association—as we have no voice through the P.L. Matrons' Association. The Poor Law people are very strong as they have members in Parliament who work for them—and they have interest at the Local Government Board. As you know I am a member of the Society for State Registration and am quite satisfied that the Central Committee will see after the interests of Poor Law Nurses as well as hospital nurses through our own Bill. What a pity is all this College interference. Why did it not support our Bill and help to get it through Parliament?

Yours truly,

SISTER, POOR LAW.

[We advise you to consult your Matron, but as you know our Bill provides for a three years' open term of grace after it becomes law—during which all Poor Law Nurses of good character will be able to register. We agree too many cooks spoil the broth.—ED.]

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

*March 3rd.*—What is an intussusception? How would you prepare the patient for operation, and what instruments and dressings would be necessary?

*March 10th.*—Describe the causes, symptoms and terminations of inflammations?

*March 17th.*—What precautions would you take in saving for microscopic examination a specimen of urine, a specimen of sputum, a specimen of faeces?



# The Midwife.

## CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

### THE MONTHLY MEETING.

The monthly meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the Board's offices, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, S.W., on Thursday, February 15th. Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

The Secretary reported that the Royal College of Physicians had re-elected Sir Francis Champneys as their representative for one year from April 1st, and the Incorporated Midwives Institute, Sir Shirley Murphy, F.R.C.S.

### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

Further correspondence was considered with the solicitors of a candidate for examination, stated by the Approved Midwife in whose house she was residing to have taken a variety of drugs and stimulants during the week preceding the Examination of October 24th ult, and in particular during the morning of the first day of the examination. It was decided to refer the statement of the candidate to the Approved Midwife above-mentioned for her comment.

Correspondence was considered concerning falsified certificates of birth, and one of marriage showing material discrepancies, which had been tendered by candidates for admission to the Board's Examination, and fresh certificates having been tendered, the applicants were admitted to examination.

Adjourned correspondence with the Matron of a Maternity Hospital recognised by the Board as a Training School, was considered with reference to the Examination Schedule of two candidates in which the period of training had been incorrectly certified. It was decided to take no further action.

A letter was read from the Acting Registrar of the General Medical Council conveying the request of the President that the Board would forward to the Local Supervising Authorities (a) a copy of a circular letter addressed by the Council to all the registered medical practitioners in England and Wales calling their attention to the provisions of the Midwives Act, 1902, which prohibit any woman, not being certified under the Act, from attending women in child-birth habitually and for gain, otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner (b) a copy of a Warning Notice issued by the Council pointing out that any registered medical practitioner proved to have been guilty of "covering" an uncertified woman will be liable to have his name erased from the Medical Register. The Secretary reported that the Local Government Board had expressed a desire to forward from their office the circular letter and the Warning Notice to the various Local Supervising Authori-

ties and that the General Medical Council had agreed to this being done.

It was agreed that the Central Midwives Board had no objection to the Local Government Board distributing the circular letter and Warning Notice of the General Medical Council as suggested by the Local Government Board.

A letter was considered from the Town Clerk of Bath reporting the conviction of an uncertified woman for a breach of the Midwives Act, and requesting the Board to consider the conduct and action of a medical practitioner in connection with the case. It was decided to forward the papers to the General Medical Council.

In a similar case the papers were handed to the Board's solicitor with a request that he would consider the evidence and advise the Board as to whether action should be taken in the matter.

Fifteen applications were received from certified midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll, on the ground of old age, ill-health, &c. The applications were granted.

The revised lists of approved training schools and lecturers for the year beginning April 1st were approved.

The application of midwife Emily Marion Sterling (No. 25193) for approval as a trainer was granted.

### REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Secretary presented the report of the Finance Committee, which showed an adverse balance of £3,375, at the close of the year, which would have to be recovered from the Local Authorities. It was agreed that the accounts as audited be approved and forwarded to the Privy Council with the request that they would approve the balance for collection.

The Annual Meeting of the Royal Maternity Charity was held at the Charity's House, 31, Finsbury Square, E.C., on February 14th. The secretary's statistical report showed that 621 cases were attended in the year and 641 infants born. The medical report stated that out of these cases attended by midwives there had been only one death, the cause being heart failure.

The Midwives Act Committee of the L.C.C. report that the Local Government Board has recently investigated the arrangements for the inspection to midwifery in London, and has made representations to the effect that whilst the two inspectors of midwives carry out their duties with great zeal and ability, they are unable, in the time at their disposal, to perform all the duties necessary in connection with midwives in London, and the Board has invited the Council to consider the question of substantially increasing the staff available for the purpose at the earliest favourable opportunity.



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